

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2605

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: SANCHES OSORIO SURFACES IN PARIS

1. APRIL 23 ISSUE OF LISBON DAILY "SECULO" CARRIED REPORT ON
PARIS PRESS CONFERENCE BY FORMER MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER
AND (TITULAR) CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY-GENERAL
SANCHES OSORIO.

2. SANCHES OSORIO REPORTEDLY STATED HE LEFT PORTUGAL CLANDESTINE-
LY MARCH 20. HE CHARGED THAT:

- PORTUGAL IS LIVING UNDER NEW DICTATORSHIP, HEADED BY FANATICS,
WHOM PORTUGUESE ARE SUFFERING IN SILENCE;
- MARCH 11 COUP WAS PROVOKED BY, AND WAS FOR BENEFIT OF, PORT-
UGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP);
- PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IS SECRET MEMBER OF PCP;
- PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IS THE "ONE STEP BACK" IN LENINIST
PRESCRIPTION FOR REVOLUTION OF "TWO STEPS FORWARD, ONE STEP
BACK;"

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- THERE ARE MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PORTUGAL TODAY THAN IN

PAST YEAR UNDER CAETANO (AT LEAST 2,000).

3. SANCHES OSORIO ALSO CALLED ON HIS OLD CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC SUPPORTERS TO USE THE VOTE IN APRIL 25 ELECTION AS "AN ARM OF THE PEOPLE" BY BACKING NON-MARXIST PARTIES. HE DENIED KNOWING DETAILS OF MARCH 11 COUP.

4. COMMENT: SANCHES OSORIO PRESS CONFERENCE ENDS MYSTERY OF HIS CURRENT WHEREABOUTS. HOWEVER, SEVERAL QUESTIONS REMAIN UNANSWERED. WHAT HAS HE BEEN DOING BETWEEN TIME OF DISAPPEARANCE AND PUBLIC EMERGENCE IN PARIS? WHY HAS HE REMAINED OUT OF SIGHT FOR SO LONG? WHAT WAS EXTENT OF HIS INVOLVEMENT, IF ANY, IN MARCH 11 COUP? IF HE WAS UNINVOLVED, AS ALLEGED, WHY DID HE FLEE PORTUGAL? WHY DID HE CHOOSE THIS MOMENT, THREE DAYS BEFORE APRIL 25 ELECTIONS, TO RESURFACE? WHAT ARE HIS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?
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